**OUTER COASTAL PLAIN VINEYARD ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes of 8-10-22 Quarterly Meeting**

Members Present: Joe Procopio, Jim Quarella, Mark Hernandez, Dustin Tarpine, Steve Becker,Larry Coia, Don Romanini, Larry Sharrott, Tedd & Jenn Marr, Rich Ostermueller, Dan Ward, Wayne Corsiglia, Orley and Tracey Ashenfelter, Karen Talarico

The meeting was held at Autumn Lake Winery and was called to order at 6:30 PM by Joe Procopio.

**Financial Report:** Karen reported that OCPVA has $37,194 in its account; there are no outstanding bills. We have collected $4,925 in membership dues.

**Grants:** The NJ Wine Industry Council has awarded the OCPVA $20,500 for the production and promotion of Coeur d’Est. The grant will be used to fund three related projects: 1) A seminar aimed at winemakers and focused on the benefits of making Coeur d’Est, as well as information on the parameters of the blend and a tasting; 2) A $750 payment to the first 15 wineries that sign an agreement to produce at least 200 gallons of Coeur d’Est; and 3) Creation of a Wine Trail to encourage consumers to seek out those wineries that produce the blend.

It is anticipated that the objectives of the grant will be accomplished by the end of 2025. The meeting for all wine growers in the state will be held in January. A committee to plan the event was created: Don, Mark, Jim, Joe and Larry S. Mark will write the invitation to the growers.

**Italian Varieties:** Larry C reported that the vines have been distributed to 5 wineries, to complete the grant project funded by WIC in 2021. He has been asked to speak about San Marco at the Easter Wine Expo in 2023. Someone from Linganore Wine Cellars in Maryland who is growing San Marco has also been asked to speak.

Larry reported that the third year crop looks good. The vines are very fruitful and there is no disease. Jim said that Bellview has sold out of the San Marco it produced. Double A will have 2,000 vines for sale over what has been ordered.

**Soil Health Grant:** Sharrott is interested in using ground cover between the rows to manage soil health. Larry Jr. has received a grant for equipment and consultants to explore this idea. As there are many different types of soil at various vineyard, anyone interested should contact him.

**Rutgers Grape and Wine Science Certificate:** Dan reported that the inaugural class for the certificate attracted 12 students. The class meets at the New Brunswick campus for four weeks. Viticulture, wine making and marketing are topics covered in the class, which includes classroom instruction and field trips to vineyards and wineries. The cost of the class is $4,400. Joe suggested the possibility of creating a scholarship. Dan mentioned that he was using the NJ Grape Varieties book for the class. Karen said there are 5 books left from the original printing, and more would have to be ordered for the seminars for the 2021 SBCG grant. Larry C and Dan will undertake this mission.

**Other Business:** Members discussed the effect of the very high temperatures on the vines this year. Reduction in vine growth and sun damage were noted. Joe asked anyone who is selling grapes to contact him.

The next quarterly meeting date will be Thursday, November 3rd.